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PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Application No.:	10/572,575	Examiner:	A. J. Sterling
Filing Date:	March 17, 2006	Art Unit:	3632
First Inventor:	Keitaro YONEZAWA	Customer No.:	23364
Attorney No.:	YONE3022/JJC/PMB	Confirm. No.:	2748
For:	POSITIONING APPARATUS AND CLAMPING SYSTEM HAVING THE SAME		

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Pursuant to Rule 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, this Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in the above-identified patent application. A listing of documents to be published on the face of any patent granted from this application is submitted on form PTO-1449. Any other documents or information submitted for consideration by the examiner are listed in this paper. A copy of each foreign patent or non-patent literature listed on form PTO-1449 is submitted herewith.

Additional Information Not Listed on Form PTO-1449

A copy of an Office action dated 5 February 2008 and received from the Japan Patent Office in the corresponding Japanese application is enclosed herewith. An English language translation of the Office action is also included.

Concise Statement of Relevancy
(Non-English Language Documents Only)

The relevancy of Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication JP 11-188551 and Japanese Patent No. 3338669 is provided via their discussion in the Office action received from the Japan Patent Office in the corresponding Japanese application.

The relevancy of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 19614/1972 (Laid-open No. 96577/1973 (S48-96577)) is by virtue of its citation in the Office action received from the Japan Patent Office in the corresponding Japanese application and the elastic member 2c in Figs. 1 and 2.

The relevancy of Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication JP 5-172119 is by virtue of its citation in the Office action received from the Japan Patent Office in the corresponding Japanese application and the outer seal band 11.

The relevancy of Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication JP 9-229837 is by virtue of its citation in the Office action received from the Japan Patent Office in the corresponding Japanese application and the plate-like cover 10.

Statement Regarding Translations

English language translations of the non-English language documents are not available to Applicants' attorney apart from English language abstracts appended to the documents or English language counterparts identified in the "Statement of Cumulative Information" paragraph below.

JP 11-188551 is equivalent to U.S. 6,095,509.

Japanese Patent No. 3338669 is equivalent to U.S. 6,527,266

Statement of Timeliness

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted after three months from (i) the filing date of the above-identified U.S. National Patent application, or (ii) after three months from entry into the U.S. National Stage of the above-identified International Application, or (iii) the date of entry into the U.S. National Stage of the International Application that has been assigned the above-identified U.S. Patent application number, whichever applies; and after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application, but prior to issuance of the earlier of any Final Action or Notice of Allowance sent in such application. The certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) is submitted separately or below, or the fee required under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) and §1.17(p) is submitted herewith.

Certification

It is hereby certified that each item of information contained in this statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

Please charge any additional fees required or credit any overpayments in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 02-0200.

The Examiner is requested to acknowledge consideration of the information provided in this paper in accordance with prescribed procedures.

Application No.: 10/572,575

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Art Unit: 3632

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicant's Attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown below.

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Date: April 15, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick M. Buechner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

PATRICK M. BUECHNER
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